

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The closed battery according to claim 4-9 wherein said valve element has a substantially circular form, a part of which is a bending fulcrum portion.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The ~~close~~closed battery according to claim 4-9 wherein said valve element has a substantially tongue-like form.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The closed battery according to claim 4-9 wherein said metal substrate is made of a material selected from the group consisting of steel sheet, stainless steel sheet, copper sheet, and aluminum sheet.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The closed battery according to claim 4-9 wherein said metal foil is made of a material selected from the group consisting of steel foil, stainless steel foil, copper foil, aluminum foil, nickel foil, and nickel-iron alloy foil.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The closed battery according to claim 4-9 wherein said break line penetrates the entire thickness of said metal substrate.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The closed battery according to claim 4-9 wherein said valve element has a substantially horseshoe form.

Claim 9 (New): A closed battery comprising:

An electrode element consisting of a positive electrode, a negative electrode, and a separator;

An electrolyte;

A battery container accommodating the electrode element together with said electrolyte; and

A closing member fitted in the inner periphery of an open end portion of said battery container to close the open end portion of the battery container;

Wherein said closing member consists of a metal substrate, a valve element which is provided in said metal substrate and defined by a break line so as to serve as a sealing chip such that when the internal pressure of the battery is elevated, the valve element is bent from a bending fulcrum which does not have a break line so as to provide the metal substrate with an opening portion for releasing the internal pressure, and a metal foil which is adhered to the inner surface of the metal substrate; and

Wherein said metal foil is connected to a lead member for conducting a current from said electrode element to a closing cap, and when said valve element operates to release internal pressure in the battery, said lead member is

electrically disconnected from the metal foil to interrupt the current.